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Getting Her Kicks

Sarah Stallings switched from one martial arts form to another

In the Kitchen With Paul Rogers

Wearing Many Hats

New ROISD Superintendent Brenda Sanford shares a unique perspective

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Scavenger Hunt
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ON THE COVER

Superintendent Brenda Sanford stays ahead of Red Oak students' needs.

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Be joyful and sing ...



Come springtime, everything blossoms. Birds stretch and bathe, bugs make their new homes in trees and under brush, and the smells of all the flowers dance at the edge of your nose.

Raised in the Texas woods between Ennis and Seven Points — literally in the middle of nowhere — all the flowers would greet me with a clogged nose, which often lingered, miserably, for months. But, there were some fond memories of spring. Turning on the air conditioners for the first time, because we didn't believe in central air. Hearing the owl's early morning hoots in the tree outside my window. Sitting on the porch, feeling a gentle breeze on perfect days. All these hold a special place in my heart, but my favorite memory, ironically, involves flowers.

A plum tree bloomed at the side of my parents' house. It was huge — it especially seemed so when I was a kid — and it grew flowers almost every year. My mom and I would pull into the yard after Sunday services, and the smell as we exited the car was elegantly sweet. The tree's flowers only stayed a week or two, which made the experience more special. I loved running underneath the tree and taking in a full lung's worth of the scent. When I grew older, I enjoyed standing at the tree's base and watching the branches tower over me. Occasionally, a smooth, methodical buzz was heard from bees pollinating the buds. In that silent, hypnotic moment, the world stood still, and all my problems drifted away.

Nature's beauty in spring is something to cherish. Hopefully, everyone has a valued spring memory. I'd love to hear them!

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
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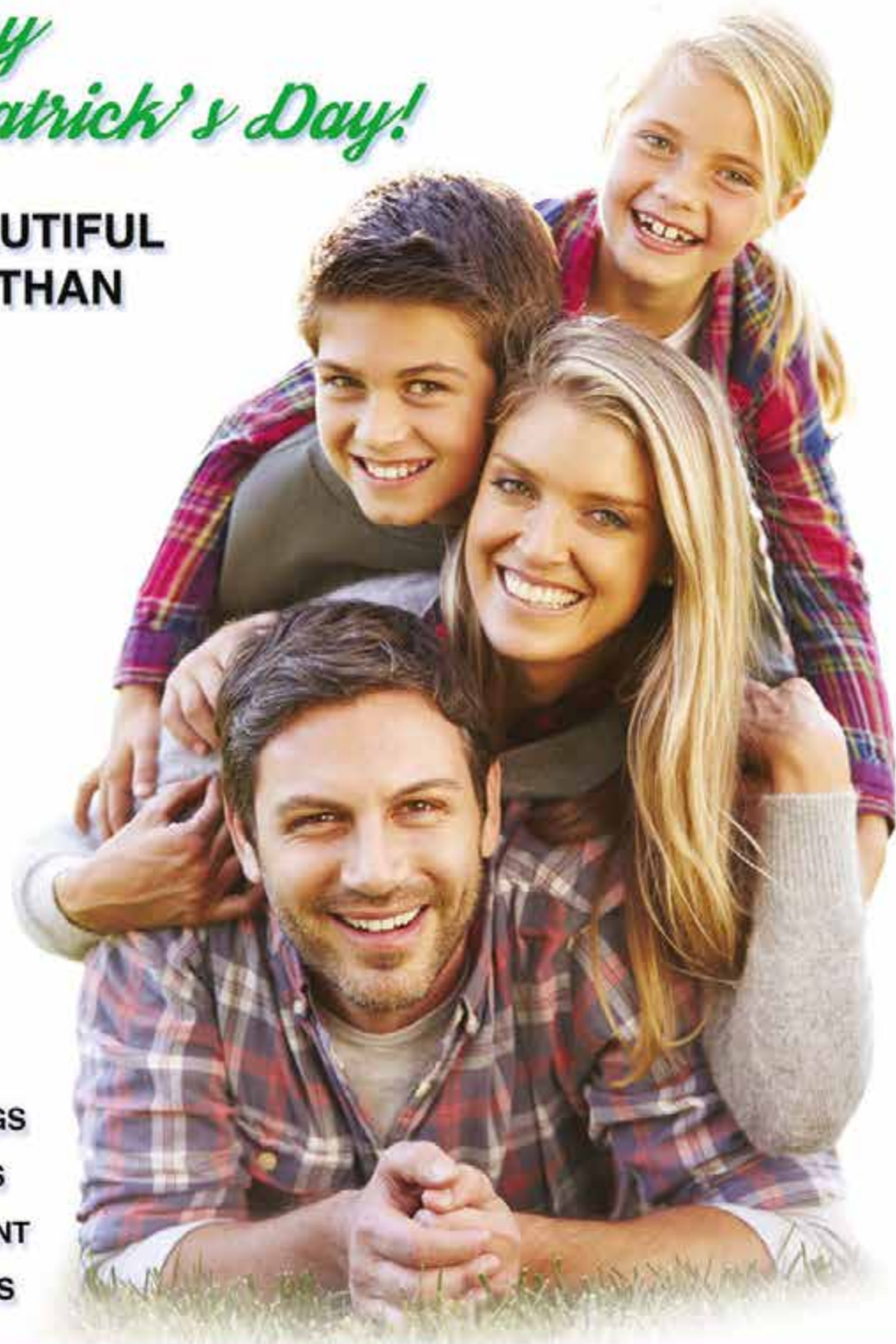
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WEARING MANY HATS

— By Melissa Rawlins

With plans for encouraging district leaders and all educators to spend time making sure every student knows they care, Mrs. Brenda Sanford became the new Red Oak Independent School District superintendent in November of last year. Mrs. Sanford comes to ROISD from Canton ISD, where she most recently was in charge of curriculum, accountability and assessment. In that role, she wore many additional hats at times, including STAAR coordinator, substitute hiring officer and trainer of staff.

Wearing many hats is part and parcel for Mrs. Sanford, who has accepted multiple responsibilities in her new role preparing Red Oak ISD's children for success in their futures. Before earning her education degree, she was justice of the peace in Canton, Texas, where she grew up.

She attended public school in Canton, and most days her mother picked up her and her siblings and brought them home for a Southern country lunch. During one difficult period when her father was hospitalized, Mrs. Sanford's teachers took it upon themselves to make sure they filled in while her mother cared for her father. In the small town, others frequently pitched in to help each other out, a value she carries with her still.

After graduation, Mrs. Sanford immediately found work as a court clerk for the justice of the peace. "After about a year, he promoted me to be chief deputy clerk, and that's when I went into the courtroom with him," Mrs. Sanford recalled. A few years later, her boss suggested yet another new role. "He came to me and wanted me to run for the position of justice of the peace. I was 21, pregnant with our first child and had a lot of thinking to do about whether I'd be able to balance the work and provide what the people needed."

After much thought and prayer, she and her husband, Bud, decided to put her name in the hat. She took office at 22 years old. After almost three terms she admitted, "I absolutely fell in love with the criminal justice system. I dealt with a lot of kids in need of role models, many with inadequate supervision. I decided to get into the education system, to see if I could make a difference before they ended up in the courts."

She attended the first online schools in the early '90s, watching lectures on PBS television and then going on weekends to take tests. After nine years online and attending night school, Mrs. Sanford received her teaching degree. Again, she and Bud prayed and pondered whether she should seek a fourth term as justice of the peace. In the last year of her third term, Bud learned a first grade position had opened in Canton. Mrs. Sanford resigned, so she could begin her career in education.

"I jumped into first grade and never looked back," Mrs. Sanford said. Since then, while teaching first- and eighth-graders, she earned her master's degree and principal's certification. She then worked



"Being proactive is huge, from the youngest learners to the graduates. We have to stay ahead of their needs."

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in various assistant principal positions. During her second year serving Edgewood ISD as a middle school principal, Canton ISD invited her back to take on the role over curriculum, accountability and assessment for the district. "I did that many-hat position for five years and then went to get my superintendent's certification."

After earning her certificate and gaining experience, she decided to start looking for the right fit for a superintendent position. "There were 32 superintendent jobs open in Texas, but Red Oak caught my attention. I believe you can sit in one place, but if you want to grow, you seek where you're supposed to be in order to make a difference," Mrs. Sanford shared.

"When I got the phone call for the interview here, I was elated. I came in thinking Red Oak was a big school district, with 6,000 students compared to 2,100 in Canton. I had a perception it would be a different feel, yet it felt homey, like family.

"What's helped me in the leadership position is that I've worn so many hats and seen our youth from a different perspective. I've seen kids who wound up in a place they did not need to be. Knowing the types of support we can give children to succeed is a big part of this job," she said. "Being proactive is huge, from the youngest learners to the graduates. We have to stay ahead of their needs.

"When I was in the legal field, I noticed there were two reasons kids got in trouble: Either they did not have something they were engaged in, or they

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did not have someone who believed in them — especially teenagers,” Mrs. Sanford said. “I feel if they had someone approach them about trying athletics, choir or debate, then some of those kids would have jumped on it. I encourage every ROISD employee, don’t sit back and wait for something to happen. Relationship building is huge, and we need to continue to offer opportunities to every child, so they can find their niche.”

In ROISD, Mrs. Sanford is getting out as much as possible, with a goal of letting teachers, students, parents and administrators know they are valued. “I want to be on a different campus early every morning, so I can greet people, and so the parents, grandparents or teachers, and even students, can approach me,” she said. During the day, she supports educators in their efforts to provide individualized instruction for every student and tends to the operation of the district. After hours, Mrs. Sanford attends UIL or athletic competitions, campus fine arts performances and community meetings and events.



“I want the students to recognize me and know I’m just a person, and that ‘just a person’ can achieve their dreams if you work hard.”

She also stressed the importance of asking for help, accessing resources and even feeling free to alter your course. “Dreams change, and it’s OK to go in a different direction. I started in the legal field, and then suddenly realized I wanted to be a teacher,” Mrs. Sanford said. “People thought I was crazy. I’ve worn many hats along the way, but I never have looked back.” **NOW**

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GETTING HER KICKS

— *By Rick Mauch*

Sarah Stallings may be young, but the 16-year-old knows a lot about tradition. She's mastered the traditional Japanese style of martial arts.

Sarah had already mastered taekwondo, having won hundreds of medals and trophies, winning state and even national championships, but despite her success, she wanted to do more. "I wanted to be more traditional, without backflips and such," she said. "I have always loved taekwondo, but I also love the Japanese style."

So, she began studying ryuei-ryu and shito-ryu. Every move is very precise and must adhere to the ancient style of Japan karate-do.

"Unlike in taekwondo, in shito-ryu the kicks are lower, from head level to the ankle. And when you're using weapons, you must always have one hand on the weapon," Sarah said.

"Changing styles can be difficult at first," her mom, Lora Stallings, added. "It's like an athlete changing from baseball to football."

Sarah, who has been participating in martial arts since age 8, made the switch after meeting a Japanese-style instructor at a taekwondo tournament. They discussed the traditional style, and that instructor introduced her to Shihan Raul Shelton, her current instructor.

"We went to a tournament, and I fell in love with it," Sarah said. "It was definitely challenging. For example, it was hard learning the difference between taekwondo and shito-ryu kumite [fighting] and kata techniques."

Sarah competes in the USA National Karate-do Federation, which is under the umbrella of the World Karate Federation and is sanctioned by the USA Olympic Committee. One of her successes is winning a gold medal in kumite and earning a spot on the USA national team. She has competed overseas in several countries, including Argentina, Mexico, Cyprus, Ecuador, Chile and Italy. She has participated in two Pan American karate championships and the world championship in Chile, the latter to which only one gold medalist from each country can advance.

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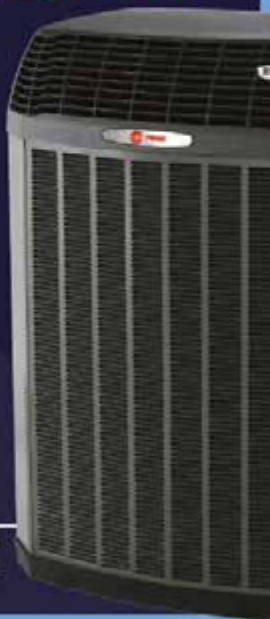
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"I have seen my share of heartbreaking outcomes," Sarah said. In this year's Pan American competition, she was about to win the match, but she was eliminated in the last 20 seconds by a late move made by her opponent. At the world championships, Sarah was leading 5-1, but was disqualified after accidentally stepping out of bounds with just two seconds left in the match.

"Again, every second counts, and there is no getting around it," Lora said.

To which Sarah added, "It shows me I have to work even harder. Every athlete will experience disappointments. The question is whether or not you learn from them."

Sarah spends much of her time in Houston training. Her family has residences in both Red Oak and Houston. She also has a dojo in Ferris, where she practices when staying here.

She maintains a disciplined schedule that includes online private school studies in the early morning, weights and cardio workouts until noon, then after lunch, she teaches karate classes and trains until around 7:30 each evening. After all of that, it's time to do her homework. Saturdays are competition days, traveling to local, state, national and international tournaments.

Sarah is a junior in high school and is taking dual-credit courses. When she graduates high school in 2021, she will have an associate degree in criminal justice. Sarah wants to be a firefighter. "My grandfather was a firefighter, and I have always admired that," she admitted.

She also wants to compete professionally in the martial arts, along with teaching. She currently teaches karate three times a week. "I love both



competing and teaching. I like learning new things, and teaching others to defend themselves and to love karate like I do," Sarah said.

While she's been dominant in her own age group, Sarah has also competed against and practices regularly against adults, some twice her age. In fact, she finished third in a multinational kata competition in Mexico in July 2019.

"I was competing against 30-year-olds, some of whom have been studying the Japanese style for up to 25 years, and most of them are much taller than me. It was amazing getting to compete against these people that I look up to — literally," she said with a laugh.

Sarah's success has brought her hundreds of medals, trophies, belts, rings, bikes, jackets and thousands of miles traveled. She has been to at least 10 countries, and she has three black belts. Not bad for someone whose mom thought that she'd give it up after a little while. She bounced from soccer, softball and cheerleading, all before the age of 8.

"My rule is if you're going to try something, you stay with it for the whole season," Lora said. "I'd say this qualifies as staying with it." **NOW**

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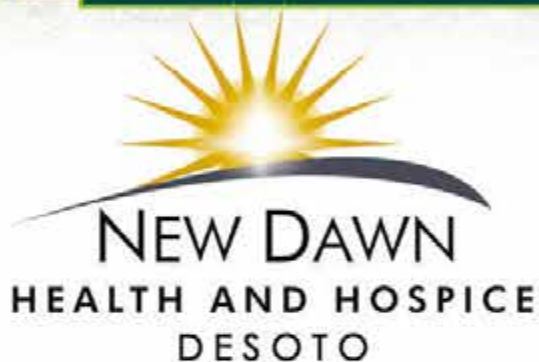
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Entering the lobby of Ovilla Family Dentistry makes a positive impression, and it is not only the large lobby well-appointed with comfortable furniture, but also the photography of Dr. Shaw's dental mission trips that draw one's attention. The photos were taken by Dr. Shaw's husband, who accompanied her on the trips, and they tell a story of great compassion by a caring, competent dentist.

The local dental practice has a philosophy of practice that is stated on their website, "All patients should be treated with



the same care we would give our own family. Gentleness, understanding, timeliness, quality and esthetics get top consideration at our office." Dr. Shaw expanded on the philosophy, stating, "We put a lot of emphasis on preventive care, including oral cancer screening. It's all about relieving pain and creating functional, beautiful smiles. We do that for each individual based on what they want and can afford. It is not a 'one size fits all.'"

Dr. Shaw has been practicing in Ovilla for more than 20 years. She received her Doctorate of Dental Surgery from Baylor College of Dentistry (now Texas A&M College of Dentistry) and previously served as a clinical assistant professor at the college. "Some things have changed over the years, but much has stayed the same. Due to new technology, there may be less pain involved in dental procedures, such as root canals, primarily due to the amount of time involved in completing the process. Dental implants may be more common today because the cost has come down, but dental implants are not a new procedure. Probably the biggest

improvement is in the area of digital imaging and digital scanning for crown and bridge impressions.”

The staff at Ovilla Family Dentistry has a wealth of experience, as two of the employees have been with the practice for more than 20 years. There is a total of seven valued employees, the most recent to join the team being Dr. Bethany Sharpe. Dr. Sharpe is a graduate of Louisiana State University School of Dentistry and had been practicing for more than five years before joining Dr. Shaw in August 2019. Dr. Shaw commented, “Our practice is growing. We are open five days a week, and I needed another full-time dentist. Dr. Sharpe is a great fit in our practice, and if I were to say how she got here, I would say, ‘God sent her!’”

“We put a lot of emphasis on preventive care, including oral cancer screening. It’s all about relieving pain and creating functional, beautiful smiles.”

Dr. Sharpe said the move to Ellis County has been good for her. “It has been a great change of scenery, and I love being out of the Dallas traffic,” she mused. “I made the decision to pursue dentistry when I was in high school. I always loved science, and after doing some hospital rotations, I knew there were some areas there that I did not see as a good fit for my future. One of my teachers said perhaps I should shadow a dentist, and after spending a summer in a dentist’s office, I was off to Centenary College in Shreveport, where I also played basketball. That summer in the dentist’s office cemented my career path, so I went from there to LSU for my doctorate.”

Having just been accepted as a volunteer dentist with Samaritan’s Purse, Dr. Shaw is considering a trip to Rwanda later this year. Whether it is in their office in Ovilla or a mission trip to a Third World country, Ovilla Family Dentistry provides the highest level of compassionate care to their patients. **NOW**

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Zoomed In: Jennifer Garcia

By Rachel Rich

Jennifer Garcia is not shy to animals, and is willing to lend a hand to any animal in need. Having worked for the shelter, along with another local rescue in Waxahachie, Streets to Sheets, she has a true passion for finding forever homes for local strays.

As the second employee to join the Red Oak animal shelter, Jennifer works closely with the animal control officer at the shelter. "There are only two of us, so we have our hands full," she said. They attempt to give as many of the sheltered animals homes as they can.

A particular dog for whom Jennifer is trying to find a forever home is Tasia, a blonde bundle of fun and Heeler/Lab mix. "We got her a little before Christmas, and she always wants to please people," Jennifer said. Sweet pets like Tasia make Jennifer's job worthwhile.



Sally Fuller travels around town meeting with old friends.



Jimmy and Aline Whatley attend a recent Gala where they were first place winners in the Best of Ellis County for their accounting and tax preparation skills.



Ferris scout, Jordan O'Neal, and mother, Melissa O'Neal, sell Girl Scout cookies at the Red Oak Wal-Mart for a trip to Jellystone National Park.



Mrs. Cryer's kindergarten students create edible land forms.



Ivan Contreras, Calin Hanz, Chase Eno, Hayven Waltmon, Mason Cheek and Koen Lewis enjoy playing with LEGOs at First United Methodist Church.



The City of Glenn Heights holds a ribbon cutting for their first ever senior center in town.



Ellis County Junior Bible Quiz members, Nathan Colley, Lucas Jeter, Josiah Lapusan and Daniel Bartholomew are all smiles at their competition in Red Oak.



Mrs. Morgan's kindergarten students enjoy learning from STEAM lab teacher, Miss Briones.

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

PAUL ROGERS

— By Lindsay L. Allen



“Nothing brings friends and family together like a great meal. It’s truly magical to take a dozen raw ingredients and turn them into something harmonious,” Paul Rogers said. His love for cooking and food has led to ministering to many people in his community and church by delivering good food in their time of need.

For Paul, it is not uncommon to receive a picture of a friend or family member’s meal from a restaurant, and then, he experiments in the kitchen to recreate it for them. “Sometimes,” he said, “I’ll see something on a cooking show and wonder if I could make it better. I enjoy the experimentation process and love adding onions and/or other vegetables to my recipes.” **NOW**

Zuppa Toscana Soup

1 lb. Italian sausage
1 white onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes
1 tsp. Italian seasoning
2 large russet potatoes, cubed
16 oz. chicken stock
1 qt. water

1 chicken bouillon cube
2 tsp. cornstarch, mixed with water to make a paste
2 cups kale, chopped
4 slices cooked bacon, crumbled
1 to 1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream

1. Brown sausage in a large pot. When sausage is done, add onions, garlic, salt, pepper, red pepper flakes and Italian seasoning. Cook until the onions are translucent.
2. Turn heat to medium; add potatoes,

chicken stock, water and bouillon. Cook until potatoes are done.

3. Add cornstarch/water paste; simmer for 15 minutes.

4. Reduce heat; add kale, cooked bacon and cream while stirring.

5. Cook for 10 minutes; serve warm.

Tatum’s Broccoli Salad

Salad:

3 heads broccoli, diced
1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
2/3 cup dried cranberries
1/2 cup crispy bacon, crumbled
1/2 cup salted sunflower seeds
1/3 cup red onion, diced

Dressing:

3/4 cup Duke’s Mayonnaise
1/4 cup sour cream
1 1/2 Tbsp. white vinegar
3 Tbsp. sugar
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. fresh cracked black pepper

1. For salad: Mix all the salad ingredients together in a large bowl.
2. For dressing: Mix the dressing ingredients together in a small bowl.
3. Drizzle the dressing over the salad; toss to coat the salad mixture.
4. Chill before serving.

Corn Outta-Da Cup

6 ears corn

1 Tbsp. vegetable oil

1/2 onion, finely diced

3/4 cup cotija cheese, crumbled
(divided use)

3/4 cup Dukes Mayonnaise

2 Tbsp. cilantro, chopped

Zest of 2 limes

1/2 tsp. chipotle salt (divided use)

1. Heat a grill or grill pan over high heat until hot. Add the corn; char on all sides, turning occasionally, until blackened in parts, about 12 to 15 minutes.
2. When cool enough to handle, cut the kernels off the cobs.
3. Heat the oil in a saucepan over medium heat; sauté the onions until translucent, about 5 minutes.
4. Add the charred corn kernels; cook until warm.
5. Stir in 1/2 cup of the cotija cheese, the mayonnaise, cilantro and lime zest. Season with 1/4 tsp. of the chipotle salt.
6. Sprinkle the remaining cotija cheese and chipotle salt over the top of the mixture; serve warm.

Black Forest Cake

Crust:

1 cup flour

1/2 cup butter, melted

1/2 cup pecans, chopped

First Layer:

1 cup powdered sugar

8 oz. cream cheese, softened

1 cup Cool Whip

Second Layer:

1 small pkg. chocolate pudding

1 small pkg. vanilla pudding

2 1/2 cups milk

1 Tbsp. vanilla extract

Third Layer:

3-4 cups Cool Whip

Chocolate shavings, to taste

1. Preheat oven to 350 F

2. For crust: Mix together crust ingredients thoroughly; mash mixture into a greased

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9x11-inch baking pan. (The crust should be 1/4-inch thick.) Bake for 20 minutes; cool completely.

3. For first layer: Combine all the ingredients; spread over the cooled crust.

4. For second layer: Combine all the ingredients; spread over the first layer of the cake.

5. For third layer: Spread the Cool Whip on top of the second layer; sprinkle with chocolate shavings.

6. Chill the cake; serve ice cold.

Randy's Carrot Cake

Cake:

4 eggs

1 1/4 cups vegetable oil

2 cups white sugar

2 tsp. vanilla extract

2 cups all-purpose flour

2 tsp. baking soda

2 tsp. baking powder

1/2 tsp. salt

2 tsp. ground cinnamon

3 cups carrots, grated

1 cup pecans, chopped

Frosting:

1/2 cup butter, softened

8 oz. cream cheese, softened



Corn Outta-Da Cup

4 cups confectioners' sugar

1 tsp. vanilla

1 cup pecans, chopped

1. For cake: Preheat oven to 350 F; grease and flour a 9x13-inch pan.

2. In a large bowl, beat together eggs, oil, white sugar and the vanilla.

3. Mix in flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt and cinnamon. Stir in the carrots.

4. Fold in pecans; pour the mixture into the prepared pan.

5. Bake for 40-50 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean. After baking, let the cake cool in the pan for 10 minutes. Turn out onto a wire rack; cool completely

6. For frosting: In a medium bowl, combine butter, cream cheese, confectioners' sugar and vanilla. Beat until the mixture is smooth and creamy. Stir in chopped pecans; frost the cooled cake.

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TravelNOW Under the Tower

— By *Lisa Bell*

In the shadow of New Braunfels, Texas, the Guadalupe River flows through the small community of Gruene. In the summertime, the town bustles with people floating down the river on inner tubes or in rafts and kayaks. In fact, outfitters in Gruene are known for putting in and taking out at the popular recreational spot. Interestingly enough, locals actually choose early spring to board a raft, canoe or kayak and hit the rapids during the off-season.

But floating the river isn't the only thing to do in this small town. And what better time for a romantic walk along the river or enjoying dinner to the gentle rush of water? The atmosphere of Gruene lends itself to relaxation after busy months of holidays and kicking off another year.

In the heart of the community, the town square always has something going on. Even during the week, people visit

the area for a lazy day of shopping the small stores or sitting beside the river. Many of the local restaurants overlook the Guadalupe. The best known, Gristmill, is the perfect spot to dine. It wasn't always a restaurant, which is what makes it such a notable place. In 1878, the new-fangled, water-wheel wonder appeared — the Gruene Cotton Gin. The community used it until 1922, when all of the wooden parts burned to the ground, leaving only the three-story brick boiler room. A small kitchen occupies a corner of that boiler room today, restored and in operation since 1977. When crowded, live music fills the courtyard, and servers take care of customers waiting for a table.

Speaking of music, Gruene also boasts the oldest continually operating and most famous dance hall in Texas. Gruene Hall, built by Henry D. Gruene in 1878, hosted some of the greatest stars before anyone knew their names. Photos line the walls of many artists who love the spot. It isn't unusual to see children learning to shoot pool or play in the open-air garden beside the hall. Whether you go to see a famous performer (check the schedule online) or listen to someone destined for greatness, don't skip this popular place in Gruene.

The historic square offers antiques, boutiques, an old-fashioned toy store, the old general store and much more. With wineries on the square, you can stop in and relax for a while, or sit under big trees and watch people. With all the outdoor areas, children don't have to get bored, and in the middle of the square, you can take a walk down a nature trail.

Stop in The Barn and watch artisans Kyle and Angie White create beautiful pottery on-site. Spend a few minutes or a long time watching the potter at the wheel, spinning up amazing pieces of functional art. The license plates in the floors of many buildings repair holes, while preserving the original wood.

With an abundance of Airbnbs, finding lodging in Gruene is a snap. Many of them also overlook the river, giving visitors a chance to relax and simply sit back for a calm weekend or an entire week.

In the heart of the community, the town square always has something going on.

Should you run out of things to do in Gruene, New Braunfels is a few miles away. During the summer season, Schlitterbahn creates a perfect water playground. In the off-season, their resort makes a great base of operation for your trip to Gruene. Several parks also sit beside the river with grassy areas to play or lie back on a blanket, perhaps enjoying a nice picnic. Be alert for the most beautiful residents. Deer play in abundance, and people don't scare them much.

Filled with history, Gruene is a wonderful place to visit, but not everyone knows about this hidden treasure. Even the bridge across the river is a designated historical landmark. Although you can get there mostly by traveling on I-35, you might want to take backroads and check out some other wonderful sights in the Texas Hill Country. **NOW**

Editor's Note: To learn more, visit www.gruenetexas.com.

Photos by Lisa Bell unless otherwise noted.

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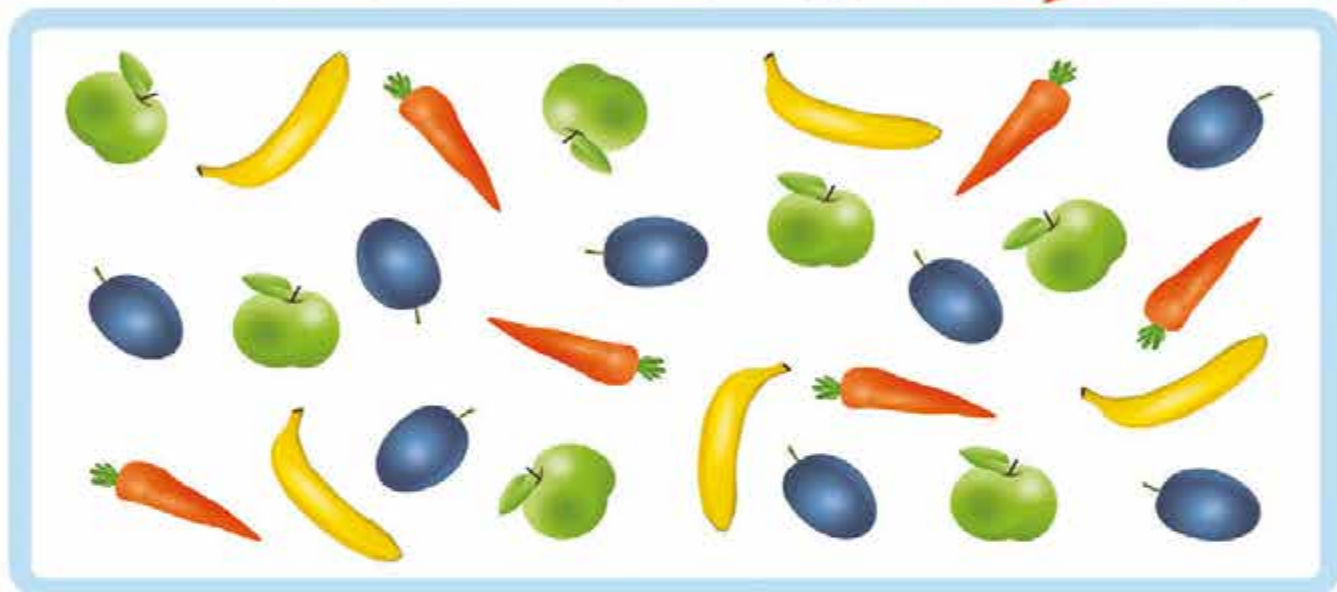
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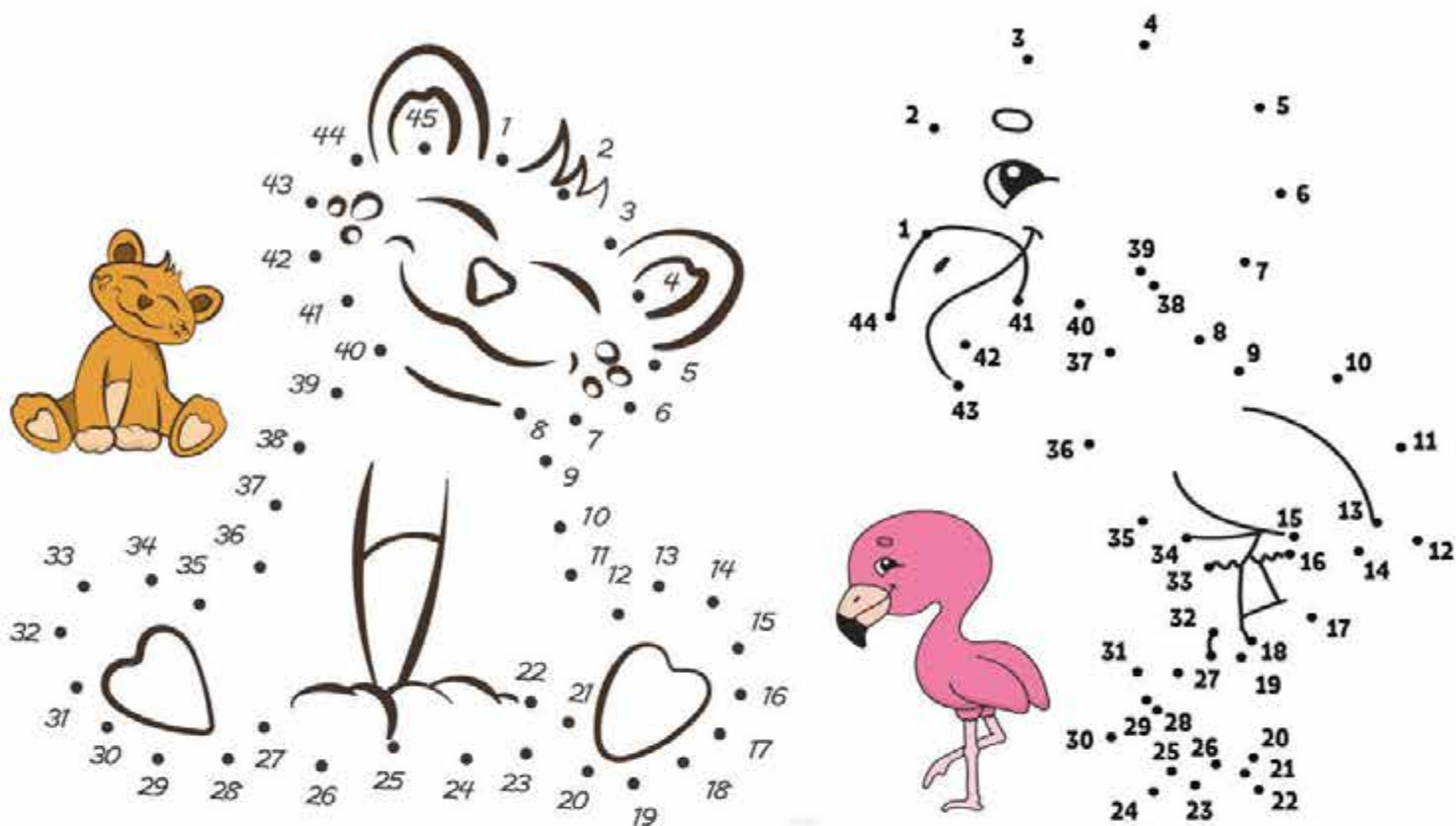


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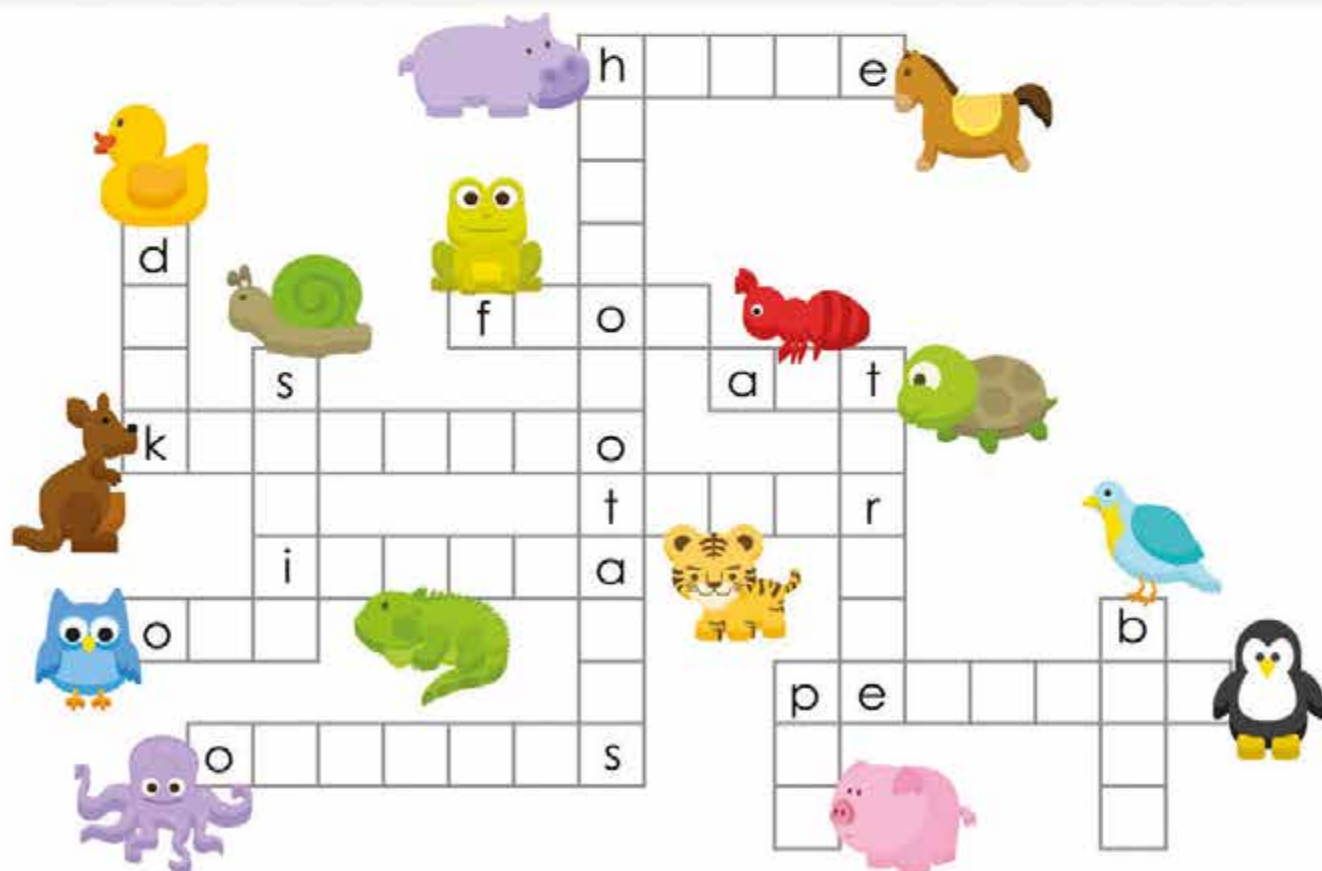
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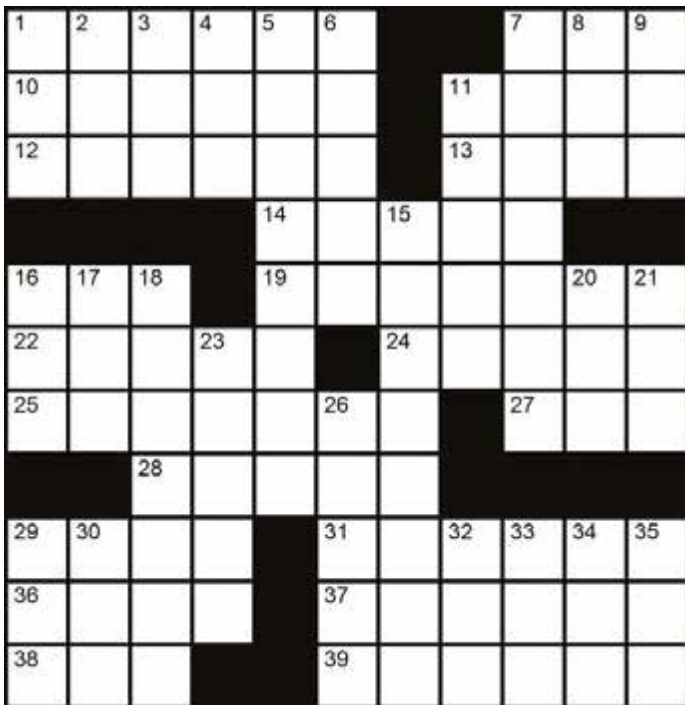
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Across

- 1 For some time
- 7 Convert hide into leather
- 10 Stimulating drink
- 11 Harbor
- 12 Quaint love letter opener
- 13 Creep
- 14 Frothy concoctions
- 16 LA summer setting
- 19 Holy threesome
- 22 Get-well treatment
- 24 Salk's conquest
- 25 Type of show, such as Anne Hathaway's "Grounded"
- 27 Hill VIP
- 28 Same here!
- 29 Well-informed about
- 31 Alters formally
- 36 Niagara has a Maid of this
- 37 Tempestuous
- 38 Big Apple aria spot
- 39 Pull into

Down

- 1 Rocket interceptor
- 2 Sardonic
- 3 Suckered
- 4 Apply a cake's top layer
- 5 Tiniest amount
- 6 Mistake
- 7 Oft-removed throat tissues
- 8 Curve
- 9 Utmost
- 11 It has 88 keys when full-size
- 15 Old Dodge
- 16 In favor of
- 17 Lair
- 18 Beyond all others
- 20 Railroad cross-member
- 21 Way over there, poetically
- 23 Representative
- 26 Bellows
- 29 Now let me think ...
- 30 Chart variety
- 32 Self-esteem
- 33 Pinch
- 34 Material studied by Watson and Crick
- 35 USMC noncom

Solutions on page 36

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	1		6					8
4		2	3					
6							3	
7		3	4			2		5
					7	9		
					2	4		3
						1		
2	6		7					
	3						9	

Medium

		2		9				
			4	5	6			
							5	7
			9					
		9		6		1		
1			2			6		9
		1						5
	6	7			8		4	
	4	8		1		9		

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Solutions on page 36

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LIMITED VENDOR/SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE. CALL 469-337-3284 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Happy ST. PATRICK'S DAY

MARCH

3/2

Red Oak Elementary Open House:

6:00-7:00 p.m. For more details,
visit redoakisd.org.

3/3

Ferris High School Open House:

6:30-8:00 p.m. For more details,
visit ferrisisd.org.

3/5

Red Oak Middle School Open House:

6:30-8:00 p.m. For more details,
visit redoakisd.org.

3/14

Sweethearts and Orphans Car Show:

Located in downtown
Waxahachie. For more details,
call (469) 309-4045.

Ellis County Market:

Spring vendor market
brought to you by the
Chambers of Midlothian,
Ennis, Red Oak and
Waxahachie.
More than 200 vendors,
plus Kids Zone, Safety Zone,
Home and Garden Zone,
food trucks and entertainment.
General admission: \$5;
with Taste of Ellis County:
\$10. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.,
Ellis County Expo Center,

2300 Hwy. 287, Waxahachie.
For more information, email
ROACCmelodie@outlook.com
or call (972) 617-0906.

Southbound Sessions:

A first of its kind, featuring
music from Olivier,
Maya Piata and *American Idol's*
own D and Chi. 6:00 p.m.,
Stem & Light, 270 Anderson
Ranch Rd, Waxahachie.
Tickets cost \$15, and are limited.

3/19

ROMS Band

Pre-UIL Performance:

7:00-9:00 p.m., to be held in
the Performing Arts Center.

3/20

Handbags for Hawks:

Hosted by Red Oak ISD
Education Foundation.
A bingo event where
every game winner gets
a select designer handbag.
Tickets include 20 games
of bingo, coffee bar,
dessert bar and refreshments
(2 drink coupons).
7:30 p.m., Midlothian
Conference Center.
For more information,
call Red Oak ISD at
(972) 617-2941.

3/21

ROMS and ROHS Percussion Ensemble Concert:

7:00-9:00 p.m., to be held in
the Performing Arts Center.

3/27

ROHS Theatre One Act Play Public Performance:

7:00-8:30 p.m., to be
held in the Performing
Arts Center.

3/28

"Spring Fling" Outdoor Flea Market/ Farmer's Market:

Free. 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.,
located at DL Treasures,
103 S. TX-342, Red Oak.
For more information,
contact Linda Batey at
(972) 352-0572.

3/29

ROHS Band Car Show:

8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., parking
lots B, C and Band field at
Red Oak High School.

Tuesdays

Red Oak Library Story Time:

Free crafts, story time and
learning games for
children 18 months-5 years
accompanied by a parent or
caregiver. 10:00-11:00 a.m.,
200 Lakeview Dr.
Call (469) 218-1230 for
more information.

Ferris Public

Library Game Day:

Young people 7 to 17 can play
PS4 and Wii in the library's
meeting room. 3:30-5:30 p.m.,
301 E. 10th St.
For more information,
call (972) 544-3696.

Second
Wednesdays

Silver Hour Bingo:

Inviting all senior citizens
to bingo. No IDs needed to
verify age. Free beverages
while playing and Chick-Fil-A
goodies given as prizes.
Free. 9:00-10:00 a.m., located
at Red Oak Chick-Fil-A, 200
Sharaf Avenue.

Alzheimer's

Support Group:

10:00 a.m., Brookdale
Waxahachie.
2250 Brown St.
Waxahachie, TX.
Email Megan Sims at
megan.sims@brookdale.com
for more information.

Third Saturdays

Ferris Trade Days:

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 101 S.
Main St. (469) 309-9287

*Submissions are welcome and
published as space allows.
Send your current event details to
rachel.rich@nowmagazines.com.*



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TOURNAMENT

MARCH 20 | 3 PM MARCH 21 | 9 AM

FOR MORE INFO, EMAIL NCESPORTSTOURNAMENT@NAVARROCOLLEGE.EDU



presented by:





MARCH 14, 2020 FROM 10AM - 3PM
@ ELLIS COUNTY EXPO CENTER

\$5 general admission
\$5 for "Taste of Ellis County"

VENDOR SIGN-UPS:
bit.ly/elliscountymarket


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SCAVENGER HUNT WINNERS!



Heather Cabo is a very happy \$50
North Ellis Co.NOW Magazines prize
winner. She and her mother enjoy
searching together for the scavenger
hunt's hidden images.



Pam Davis-Young said, "After playing
the scavenger hunt every month, it
pays to keep playing and sending in
the answers."

Crossword - Sudoku Solutions

1	A	W	H	I	L	E				7	T	A	N	
10	B	R	A	C	E	R				11	P	O	R	T
12	M	Y	D	E	A	R				13	I	N	C	H
							14	S	O	D	A	S		
16	P	D	T				18	T	R	I	N	I	T	Y
22	R	E	H	A	B			24	P	O	L	I	O	
26	O	N	E	G	I	R	L				27	S	E	N
							28	M	E	T	O			
29	U	P	O	N				31	A	M	E	N	D	S
36	M	I	S	T				37	R	A	G	I	N	G
38	M	E	T					39	S	T	O	P	A	T

Easy

3	1	5	6	2	9	7	4	8
4	8	2	3	7	5	6	1	9
6	7	9	1	4	8	5	3	2
7	9	3	4	1	6	2	8	5
8	2	4	5	3	7	9	6	1
1	5	6	9	8	2	4	7	3
9	4	7	8	5	3	1	2	6
2	6	8	7	9	1	3	5	4
5	3	1	2	6	4	8	9	7

Medium

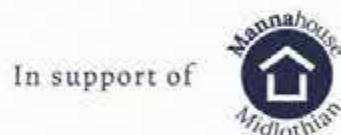
4	5	2	8	9	7	3	1	6
7	1	3	4	5	6	8	9	2
8	9	6	1	2	3	4	5	7
6	3	4	9	7	1	5	2	8
2	8	9	3	6	5	1	7	4
1	7	5	2	8	4	6	3	9
3	2	1	6	4	9	7	8	5
9	6	7	5	3	8	2	4	1
5	4	8	7	1	2	9	6	3



We Can End Hunger. Together.

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Firefly Gardens | Midlothian



Local restaurants, caterers and chefs are coming together, putting their best dish forward to participate in The Signature Dish, Ellis County's largest culinary event.

Attendees will savor tastings prepared by participants as on-site judges determine best-in category winners.

Come enjoy fabulous flavors, live music by The Kadie Lynn Band, exciting prizes and a silent auction as you taste your way through a delicious evening in support of Manna House.

Purchase tickets and view a list of participating restaurants online at
MannaHouseSignatureDish.com



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